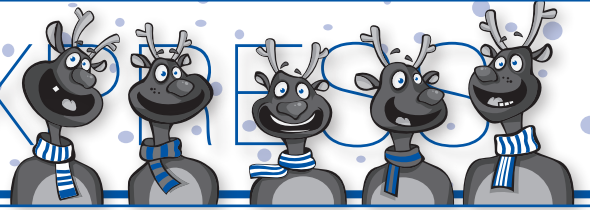




HAPPY NEW YEAR! HAPPY 2014!

GAZEBO EX



YOUR COMMUNITY NEWS AND EVENT SOURCE FOR THE TOWN OF HIGHLAND • JANUARY 2014

NIXLE ALERT, RESIDENTS HELP POLICE APPREHEND SUSPECTS

COMMUNITY ALERT SYSTEM KEEPING HIGHLAND SAFE

A crime in early December showcased just how vital the Nixle alert system is for keeping Highland safe.

Through a series of alerts sent out in the mid-morning hours of Dec. 4, police notified residents in the Terrace Estates neighborhood, who are part of the Nixle system, of a burglary where suspects remained at-large. Residents were encouraged to double-check to make sure their doors and windows were locked.

A description of the suspects followed minutes later. Residents, in turn, notified police of the suspects whereabouts. Both of the accused were apprehended without incident.

Police Chief Pete Hojnicky said the incident speaks volumes about the importance of the Nixle system, used in communities throughout the United States.

"I can't stress how important it is for all residents to sign up for this free service," Hojnicky said. "We were able to provide critical information to our residents in real time that kept

HOW IT WORKS ...

1. Law enforcement agencies publish alerts via a priority messaging system. In Highland, those messages have communicated weather hazards, crime, even water main breaks.
2. Messages are dispatched and targeted to a specific geographic region. If your address falls within the targeted region, you receive the alert. You can choose to be exclusive and request information only for your address or include as many regions as you like.
3. Residents, who have subscribed to the free service, receive the message via cell phone text, email alert, or by accessing their individual Nixle account page.

Sign up for Nixle today at www.nixle.com and click on the gold "Sign Up Free!" button.

them safe. Residents provided dozens of additional sets of eyes that ultimately helped police locate and apprehend the criminals. It was a perfect set of circumstances that led to the best possible outcome and it would not have been possible without the Nixle alert system." 🐾

IT'S FULL STEAM AHEAD FOR THE TOWN THEATRE

It's all systems "go" for the renovation of the historic Town Theatre.

Several months after experts began taking an in-depth look at the interior of the theatre, they have declared it structurally sound and able to be restored to all of its vintage 1947 glory.

The raccoons seem to be gone and we've been able to get measurements, which will allow the town to move forward with the project," said Ken Gurtowski, an architect with VOA Associates. "Before

any remodeling can take place, the theatre needs mold remediation followed by the removal of the ceiling and a thorough check of the roof joists and then the ceiling will need to be taken down. After that work is completed, we'll be able to remove items that have outlived their usefulness and begin planning to bring the theatre back."

One of the challenges: removing the gigantic projector, which was put in place before some of the walls were in place. 🐾

THE BEST OF HIGHLAND

The chamber's 2013 "Best of Highland" was such a success, organizers have decided to stage a repeat in 2014. The contest honors business owners, innovators, educators, civil servants and residents along with Chamber member restaurants, which vied for top honors in the "Taste of Highland" event. Look in this month's water bill for a special nomination form, which will help determine this year's winners for:

- ✓ Chamber Board Member
- ✓ Business Person
- ✓ Chamber Volunteer
- ✓ Beautification
- ✓ Civil Servant
- ✓ Fire Department
- ✓ Parks Department
- ✓ Police Department/VIPs
- ✓ Public Works and School Town

The nomination form also includes information for purchasing tickets.

... TOWN TICKER ...

This Week in Highland with Council President Bernie Zemen on WJOB is moving to 8:30 a.m. on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month. ... A new urgent care center opened in Highland. **Physicians Urgent Care**, 10343 Indianapolis Blvd., features seven exam rooms, including a pediatric room and trauma room for treating non-life-threatening injuries as well as minor surgical procedures. Learn more at visitphysicians.com/highland. ... **Highland's Kent Witt** spent five days at the White House arranging Christmas decorations. This is the second year Witt applied and was accepted as part of the holiday decorating team. ... **Winners of the 2013 Home Decorating Contest** are:

- * **Best Overall:** 3220 41st St.
- * **Second Place:** 9121 Idlewild Drive
- * **Third Place:** 3433 41st Place
- * **Honorable Mention:** 2641 38th St.
- * **Best Use of Color:** 3342 North Drive
- * **Best New Entry:** 3410 Jewett Ave.
- * **Best Theme:** 3206 Wirth Road

SNOW SHOVELING HELP

Calling all those with strong backs and sturdy shovels. Last year's neighbor-helping-neighbor snow shoveling program had many takers but not enough volunteers willing to lend a hand, and a shovel.

"We had more than 100 people call who needed help but only about eight volunteers to shovel," Public Works Director John Bach said. "Some are able to pay. Others aren't. But we still want to do the program, if we can get volunteers to make it work."

WANT TO HELP? Interested volunteers should call Bach at (219) 972-5069.

CRIME WATCH MEETING

Learn about recent crime trends in our community at this month's neighborhood meeting.

WHEN: 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, JAN. 8

WHERE: Highland Library

INFO: Please call Officer Shawn Anderson at (219) 838-3184.



WARD 1

BERNIE ZEMEN - president
bzemen@comcast.net
(219) 781-1056



WARD 2

MARK HERAK
mherak@highland.in.gov
(219) 838-0126



WARD 3

DAN VASSAR
dvassar@highland.in.gov
(219) 924-1945



WARD 4

DENNIS ADAMS
dadams@highland.in.gov
(219) 923-8475



WARD 5

KONNIE KUIPER
kkuiper@highland.in.gov
(219) 924-7820

NEWS TIP? STORY IDEA?

Send your suggestions to:
gazeboexpress@theideafactory.us.com

The Gazebo Express is produced by:

The Idea Factory • (219) 779-9041
www.theideafactory.us.com

Printed by CJ Printing
9445 Indianapolis Blvd.
Highland, IN 46322



PROJECTS ON TAP FOR 2014

Members of Highland Main Street and its committees took 2013 and ran with it, bolstering existing initiatives and finding inspiration among its members for innovations that created a buzz. They are planning for a repeat performance in 2014. Here's a quick look at what's on tap and a request to get involved:

TOWN THEATRE: The focus is on renovating the theatre. The group is working on operational goals to determine how the theatre will operate, who will manage it and how will it be sustained. Volunteers Dan Dunn and Christian Bartholomew are assisting in developing goals while researching independent theaters around the country.

INCREASE BUSINESS AWARENESS: The emphasis is working with downtown businesses to become more successful. The goal is to make the downtown a destination for residents and tourists, alike.

ART DISPLAY: HMS will have at least two art displays in downtown business windows this coming year to encourage the arts in town and encourage the community to stop and shop, so that people can come down and view the art and stop into the shops. Joanna Smith has been heading this project.

POP-UP GALLERIES: The successful effort to showcase available storefronts through local art displays coupled with after-hours wine and appetizers will continue. Pop-up galleries have proven to be great networking opportunities and advertisement for vacant sites. Dawn Diamantopoulos oversees this initiative.

CASH MOBS: Two Cash Mobs were staged in downtown businesses in 2013 and more are planned for this year. Cindy Rivera leads the group and makes a special "Cash Mob" hat for each store.

FAÇADE IMPROVEMENT GRANT: HMS will continue providing brochures and information to downtown businesses about the program that allows up to 30% reimbursement of the cost to renovate the façade of commercial buildings.

FESTIVAL OF THE TRAIL: This festival newcomer was successful in generating traffic throughout downtown. Work this year will focus on encouraging all downtown businesses to host sidewalk sales or provide art and music along the trail. Jillian Van Volkenburgh was the chair of this event and Mario DeGeorge and Sean Kingston assisted.

HOLIDAY DECORATIONS: Donations from local merchants and the Town Council helped lead the charge for new decorations downtown. Six silhouette trees, garland, balls, and wreaths were purchased. More decorations are planned and businesses will be encouraged to ramp up their decorations in 2014 too. Shirley and Tom Frankiewicz are heading up this effort.

HIGHLAND ROOKERY: The Rookery is Highland's hidden gem. Located just south of the Little Calumet River, the rookery is a large nesting area for great blue herons and egrets. Volunteers Darlene Barron and Carole Kutcka are working on accessing the area and creating a tourist destination that will loop into the downtown.

THEATRE DISTRICT: The theatre is a downtown anchor in-the-making. When it reopens, the plan is to have eatery partners in place that foster "dinner-and-a-movie" relationships. This will be a win for the business and the theatre.

OTHER IDEAS: Other ideas being discussed include a car show and cruise, enhancing the municipal parking lot, and exploring the idea of a Christkindlmarket for the 2014 holiday season.

COUNCIL SEEKS BOARD, COMMISSION MEMBERS

The Town Council is looking for community-minded individuals who would like to serve on a board or commission for 2014 and beyond.

"We have several openings we would like to get filled as soon as possible," Council President Bernie Zemen said. "Beginning in January, there will be two open positions on the Redevelopment Commission along with a position on the Police Commission and that's for starters."

In addition, the council is hoping to add a number of members to the Council of Community Events and to Highland Main Street.

"Citizen involvement is invaluable to making Highland the great town that it is," he said.

HOW TO APPLY

To be considered, residents must file an application — available at highland.in.gov — with the Clerk-Treasurer's office, located inside Town Hall, 3333 Ridge Road.

Open positions include seats on the following boards and commissions:

- Parks and Recreation Board
- Police Commission
- Redevelopment Commission
- Sanitary Board
- Water Board
- Board of Zoning Appeals
- Highland Main Street
- Highland Council of Community Events



BEAD TOWN NWI

HIGHLAND NATIVE LEADS HOSPITAL FOUNDATION, BRINGS EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY TO SCHOOLS

When they return from the holidays, students at Our Lady of Grace will begin work with renowned Bead Town artist Stephan Wanger to create a mosaic to be unveiled in mid-February.

The Methodist Hospitals Foundation is backing the effort, which is part fund-raiser, part educational opportunity for students throughout the region. Our Lady of Grace was one of the first schools to take advantage of the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.



HANRAHAN

Known as Bead Town Northwest Indiana, the project uses discarded Mardi Gras beads to create intricate works of art. Wanger's Bead Town initiative began in Louisiana following Hurricane Katrina. Monies raised there have helped rebuild schools throughout the devastated region.

Rob Hanrahan, longtime Highland resident and executive director of the Methodist Hospitals Foundation, said the foundation is bringing Bead Town to Northwest Indiana to provide a unique experience for the greater community while encouraging support for healthcare.

"Stephan is a gifted artist who uses recycled Mardi Gras beads to create exquisite works of art," Hanrahan said. "His art is something that really needs to be viewed in person to be appreciated, and luckily for all us, there will be dozens of opportunities to do just that. Many of his pieces will be on display through February in donated gallery space in Miller, Crown Point and Valparaiso. There is no charge to visit the galleries, but donations are much appreciated."

To make a donation, please visit the foundation online at foundation.methodisthospitals.org.

GALLERY LOCATIONS

We've chosen two locations - Gary and Crown Point - as Stephan's gallery space. Dozens of his pieces will be on display at the galleries as well as other venues throughout Northwest Indiana. Our goal is to engage the entire community to work with Stephan to build something of beauty for our area while increasing support for the Methodist Hospitals Foundation.

MARSHALL J. GARDNER CENTER 540 S. Lake Street • Gary

This gallery serves as Stephan's hub and primary workshop. Here, you can lose yourself in Bead Town Northwest Indiana. The Marshall J. Gardner Center is a cultural destination for the visual, performing and culinary arts.

FORMER CROWN POINT LIBRARY 214 S. Court Street • Crown Point

The former Crown Point Library is coming to life on South Court. View the transformation of former book stacks into an airy workspace and art gallery. Watch the mosaic artist as he works with the community to create his own brand of magic!

Like us on FaceBook — [facebook.com/beadtownnwi](https://www.facebook.com/beadtownnwi) and [facebook.com/methodisthospitalsfoundation](https://www.facebook.com/methodisthospitalsfoundation) — for upcoming announcements and workshops.

BIG SELL COMPETITION

If you have the next big invention, Purdue University Calumet is looking for you to take part in the 2014 Big Sell entrepreneurial competition March 29 at the Star Plaza in Merrillville. Hosted by the PUC Center for Entrepreneurship Success, competitors have two minutes to pitch their idea. The top winners share an estimated \$120,000 in cash and prizes. Online submissions only at www.thebigsell.org.

SPECIAL NEEDS CARNIVAL

Parks and Recreation will host a winter carnival for individuals of all ages who have special needs and abilities.

Highland has joined forces with Crown Point, Dyer, Lake County, Merrillville, Munster, Schererville and St. John parks as well as Community Hospital to sponsor functions throughout the area geared specifically for those with special needs.

The January carnival will feature a bounce castle, volleyball, crafts, table tennis, bingo, face paint and more.

WHEN: 1 to 3 p.m. **JAN. 19.**

WHERE: Lincoln Community Center

INFO: Visit www.highlandparks.org or call (219) 838-0114.

CAROLING FOR A CAUSE

The Ridgewood Singers did it again!

This fourth-year choir went door-to-door singing carols in early December, raising \$1,260 for Toys for Tots.

Susan Colias, who organizes the event each year with her husband Jim, said the donations provided toys for local children who are less fortunate.

"The choir was delighted the donations put smiles on children's faces at Christmas time, especially for those who might not receive any toys," Colias said.

Choir members are: Pat and Jim Franz, Helen Condes, Beth and Ken Roche, Mary Ann Julius, Nancy Oostman, Jayna Harkabus, Jackson Dennis, Gene, Sandra and Ashley Howard, Meredith Colias, Doug Graham, Susan and Jim Colias.

INDOOR STREET MARKET

Escape the cold and stop indoors for your favorite breads, cheeses, honey, cupcakes, spices, pet treats and more.

WHEN: 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. **JAN. 11.**

The market continues on the second Saturday of the month through May.

WHERE: Lincoln Community Center

INFO: Visit www.highlandparks.org or call (219) 838-0114.

JUMP START

YOUR NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS!

Commit to a healthier you in 2014. Join the Lincoln Community Center Fitness Center and pay no initiation fee. That's a savings of \$30 to \$45. This special offer expires January 19. Sign up at Lincoln Center today!

TEAM TOTAL FITNESS *

Work out with a certified personal trainer to lead you through this progressive program that focuses on body composition, overall health and conditioning. Great group training for all fitness levels, including beginners. Within weeks, you'll notice a difference in your strength, energy and fitness.

WHEN: 7 to 7:55 p.m. Tuesdays, Wednesday and Fridays

SESSION 1: January 7 to 31

SESSION 2: February 4 to 28

3X/WEEK: \$75 / \$80

2X/WEEK: \$50 / \$55

1X/WEEK: \$28 / \$30.50

DROP-IN TRIAL: \$10 / \$12

WHEN: 9 to 9:55 a.m. Saturdays

SESSION 1: January 11 to February 1

SESSION 2: February 8 to March 1

1X/WEEK: \$28 / \$30.50

DROP-IN TRIAL: \$10 / \$12

WHERE: Lincoln Center Aerobics Room

VINYASA FLOW YOGA *

Vinyasa yoga is a series of smoothly flowing and dance-like poses that will move you through the power of inhaling and exhaling. Like all styles of yoga, Vinyasa has both mental and physical benefits. Physically, sweat expels toxins and re-energizes your body. Mentally, the synchronized breathing relaxes your mind and helps to release any blockage of energy flow throughout your body reducing stress levels. Great for both beginners and intermediates.

WHEN: 6 a.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays

SESSION 1: January 7 to 30

SESSION 2: February 4 to 27

2X / WEEK: \$50 / \$55

1X / WEEK: \$28 / \$30.50

DROP-IN TRIAL: \$11 / \$13

WHERE: Lincoln Center Aerobics Room

NOTE: Wear comfortable clothing.

Bring a water bottle, towel and yoga block.

TAE BO *

"Tae Bo Release the Body Within" combines the self-awareness and control of martial arts, focus and strength of boxing and grace and rhythm of dance. Newcomers are always welcome. There will be lots of twists and punches, kicks to tone and sculpt upper and lower body while strengthening the core.

WHEN: 5 p.m. Wednesdays

SESSION 1: January 8 to 29

SESSION 2: February 12 to March 5

FULL SESSION: \$30 / \$33

HALF SESSION: \$18 / \$21

DROP-IN TRIAL: \$11 / \$13

WHERE: Lincoln Center Aerobics Room

NOTE: Bring a water bottle, towel and comfortable shoes. No jeans, please!

REGISTRATION

Call (219) 838-0114 or visit www.highlandparks.org for a complete list of classes and the latest brochure. Fitness Center members receive a 10 percent discount on classes with an asterisk. Drop-in trials may be purchased only once per person per session. Other fitness programs include Zumba*, Morning Aerobics*, Yoga*, High-Low Aerobics* and Fit 4 Mom.



BABE RUTH SIGN-UPS

It's time to register for the new Highland Babe Ruth and Travel League for the following divisions: Babe Ruth and Senior League.

BABE RUTH: Ages 13 to 15

SENIOR LEAGUE: Ages 16 to 19

WHEN: 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. **JAN. 25**

WHERE: Lincoln Center

NOTE: Players MUST turn 13 by April 30, 2014 or 19 after December 31, 2013 and reside in Highland. Birth certificate and proof of residency are required at registration.

INFO: Call Babe Ruth League President Dan Vassar at (219) 924-1945 or e-mail highlandbaberuth@yahoo.com.

LITTLE LEAGUE REGISTRATION

Boys and girls can register now for the following Little League divisions: T-Ball, Rookie, Minor B, Minor A and Majors.

LEAGUE AGES: 4 to 12

WHEN: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. **JAN. 25**

WHERE: Lincoln Center

NOTE: Players MUST turn 4 by April 30, 2014 and reside in Highland. Birth certificate and proof of residency are required at registration.

INFO: Call HLL President Pat Krull at (219) 924-5121 or email info@highlandll.com.

YOUTH SOFTBALL SIGN-UPS

Spring and summer sports seasons are just a few short months away and sign-ups are scheduled for the following age divisions: 8U, 10U, 12U, 14U and 18U.

WHEN: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. **JAN. 11, 18, 25**

WHERE: Lincoln Center

REGISTRATION FEE: \$100 includes team shirt. There is a \$40 concession stand volunteer fee that will be refunded at the end of season if four volunteer hours are committed.

NOTE: Shorts, visors, and socks are additional and may be purchased at registration. All equipment is provided by the league except for a required glove. Rubber spikes are recommended, but not required.

INFO: Visit www.highlandyouthsoftball.com.

SOCCER CLUB REGISTRATION

Spring registration starts in January each year and must be closed by early March in order for teams to be created and declared to our regional governing body, the Northwest Indiana Soccer League.

WHEN: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. **JAN. 11, 18, 25**

WHERE: Lincoln Center

TRAVEL TEAMS: All players must provide a wallet-sized picture. New players must show proof of age and purchase a uniform - jersey, shorts, socks - from the club.

IN-HOUSE TEAMS: The in-house league consists of players ages 4 through 8. It does not promote competition and no statistics or game scores are kept. All players receive trophies for their effort and participation.

INFO: Visit www.highlandsoccer.org.